M. H. O. Annual Report.

The Urban District Council of Cockington.

Medical Officer's Office, 2 Chelston Place,
Cockington 5th January 1898.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be able to state that my experience for the past year in this District has been in most respects satisfactory.

The mortality during the year has been low, although somewhat higher than in the three preceding years, there having been 31 deaths yielding a death rate of 15·5 per 1000, 2 of the deaths were however those of visitors, which brings the correct average down to 14·5 per 1000, against 10 per 1000 for 1896, 12·5 per 1000 for 1895, & 11·8 per 1000 for 1894.

None of these deaths were due to any of the diseases notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, a statement that I have been able to repeat for four consecutive years.

There have been 44 births registered during year yielding a birth rate of 20·5 per 1000 against 16·5 per 1000 in 1896, 14·5 per 1000 in 1895, and 21 per 1000 in 1894.

As regards the health of the District, we have been less fortunate than in former years, owing to an outbreak of Scarlatina in August, of an extremely mild type, causing no deaths, which disappeared entirely at the end of that month, only to break out again in October, and disappearing again towards the middle of November, since when I have not had a single case of infectious disease of any description notified to me.

I believe that if we had had an isolation hospital for the patients attacked with scarlatina in August, we should not have had a second outbreak in October, which outbreak seems to me to

have had its origin in the inspected houses, in spite of the disinfection they were subjected to.

As regards an Isolation Hospital, which I consider to be greatly needed in this rapidly growing District, a special Committee was appointed in 1894 to consider the subject, & I hope very shortly they will be in a position to lay before the Council a proposition that will be approved of by all parties, & which at the same time will be of the greatest benefit to the community.

As regards the drainage of Cockington, there is only one locality which presents any serious difficulty, I refer to the seven houses on Livermead Hill, which at present drain into a miniature sewage farm, which owing to its situation, an enclosed valley immediately under the houses, & the clayey nature of the soil, is to my mind totally unfit for the purpose.

This question too is under consideration, & I hope shortly to be able to state that some remedy has been found for this state of affairs

The Bakehouses & Slaughter houses have been inspected, & the Police have visited the retail milk shops in the District, samples being taken, & sent to the Public Analyst, no adulteration however having been detected.

Mr Bowling, the Sanitary Inspector, reports that he has tested the drains, & ~~has~~ the defects remedied in 65 inhabited houses during the year, 28 new houses have been inspected, & passed for occupation, & plans of 13 new houses have been approved of

I remain

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

H. de R. Morgan

M. A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.